

CONTROL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT ~~Dr. Hubner~~^H on the Munich Conference

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. "A meeting of the representatives of the various German Länder had originally been proposed by Jakob Kaiser and Eugen Schiffer. Attendance of party and labor union delegates also was taken into consideration. This plan was suppressed upon the objections of party leaders from western Germany.
2. "As soon as I received the invitation from the Bavarian Minister-President, Ehard, I urgently applied to the SMA for permission to make the trip to Munich. Since invitations had also been sent to the other Minister-Presidents, the powers at Karlshorst took upon themselves the job of planning the tactics to be followed at Munich. At the SED headquarters it was unanimously decided that the invitations should be accepted in order to torpedo the conference, and to use it as a vehicle for propaganda. I told Friedrichs, the Minister-President of Saxony, that I would resign if attempts were made to compel me to go to Munich merely to play a puppet role.
3. "Friedrichs conveyed this information to Karlshorst, and Marshal Sokolovsky immediately summoned me to his headquarters for a two-and-one-half-hour talk. There I made it plain that I wished to proceed to Munich as a free agent, the independent Minister-President of a German Land. I was in no way to be a figure in the game of chess between Washington and Moscow. Sokolovsky answered that Munich was an American advertising stunt, a prelude to the forthcoming Peace Conference. It was the plan of the United States to pull western Germany and Austria into the monopoly-capitalist bloc in order to form a western anti-Soviet front. The Minister-Presidents of the western zones, he said, were mere exponents of dollar imperialism; it would be best to stay away from Munich.
4. "I countered by saying that if the western Minister-Presidents really wished to bisect Germany, they would find five weighty obstacles in their way; namely the five Minister-Presidents from the Russian Zone. Sokolovsky replied that four of those obstacles would be absent since the SED Minister-Presidents had decided not to attend. No conclusions were reached in the discussion of the Munich Conference.
5. "At supper Sokolovsky told me that I could have the presidency of the projected Central Government for the Russian Zone. I was the obvious man for the job, for then it could not be said in the West that this new government was an SED

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vehicle. I told Sokolovsky that I would inform him of my decision after my return from the Munich Conference.

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6. "Upon my return to Halle I learned that in the meantime Dr. Kulz (Comment: Chairman of the LDP) had decided that a proclamation of German unity should be made the leading topic on the agenda at Munich. Kulz is an honorable man, but his ideas are those of the nineteenth century: a strong, united state, free trade, bureaucratic supremacy. In spite of his basic liberalism, his mania for German unity causes him to follow the SED line.
7. "Shortly before the Munich Conference was to begin, I visited General Shlachtienco in Karlshorst. I told him that I had just submitted my resignation to the President of the Saxony-Anhalt Landtag because I had not received permission from the SED to travel to Munich. Shlachtienco informed me, however, that the other Minister-Presidents had just received permission, and that I might join them.
8. "Upon our arrival in Munich I strove to find some area of agreement in which the eastern and western representatives could work amicably together, but my conciliatory efforts were in vain. Steinhof (Brandenburg) and Paul (Thuringia) conveyed a mood of stolid resignation and behaved as if all their steps had long ago been prearranged. Dr. Fischer, the acting Minister-President of Saxony, and Hocker of Mecklenburg were brusque and unreasonable, and finally left Munich without explanation on the morning of the second day of the conference. The communique which was released to the press on behalf of the Minister-Presidents of the Russian Zone had been prepared in Berlin before their arrival in Munich and had had the prior approval of Sokolovsky and of the SED headquarters. Although it purported to bear my signature, I saw this communique for the first time when I read about the conference in the newspapers."

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